United Nations S/AC.50/2008/12

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2008
English
Original: English and Arabic

Note verbale dated 30 April 2008 from the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), and with reference to the latter's note verbale dated 27 March 2008, pertaining to the implementation of resolution 1803 (2008), has the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Kingdom of Bahrain, indicating action taken by the relevant authorities to implement the various paragraphs of the resolution, notably paragraphs 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 (see annex).

08-34240 (E) 110608 120608

Annex to the note verbale dated 30 April 2008 from the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

[Original: Arabic]

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Report submitted by the Kingdom of Bahrain pursuant to Security Council resolution 1803 (2008)

I. Introduction

In accordance with paragraph 13 of Security Council resolution 1803 (2008) on non-proliferation, and in the context of our cooperation with the Security Council, we have the honour to submit this report containing information on steps taken to implement paragraphs 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the said resolution.

II. Individuals

Memorandum 2/6/08/374, issued by the Minister of the Interior on 12 March 2008 and addressed to the Under-Secretary for Citizenship, Passports and Residence at the Ministry of the Interior, the Director of National Security, the Director of Public Security and the Assistant Under-Secretary for Legal Affairs, instructs those parties to take the following measures:

1. To exercise vigilance regarding the entry into the country of the 13 persons designated in annex 1 to the resolution as being engaged in Iran's nuclear activities; and, in the event of their entry into or transit through the territory of Bahrain, to make the fact known so that the necessary measures can be taken to notify the relevant Security Council Committee;

2. To prevent the entry into Bahrain of the five individuals designated in annex 2 and of additional persons designated by the Security Council or the Committee as being engaged in Iran's nuclear activities, except in special cases of humanitarian need such as religious obligation.

The agencies and parties in question will take appropriate action, in accordance with their respective competences.

III. Implementation of international legal commitments regarding non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

1. The Ministry of the Interior has concluded a number of memorandums of understanding and security cooperation with other States. The Kingdom of Bahrain has acceded to several international conventions on combating smuggling, which bolster Bahrain's fulfilment of its obligations. In addition to the measures mentioned above, the Ministry of the Interior would like to draw attention to further action regarding the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in particular the legal aspect of the issue.

2. A draft law has been prepared prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and regulating their destruction. The draft law, which is currently being debated in the Council of Representatives, makes it illegal to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile or retain chemical weapons, or transfer, directly or indirectly, chemical weapons to any place. By virtue of Decree No. 6 (1997), the Kingdom of Bahrain ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

3. By virtue of Act No. 8 (2005), the Kingdom of Bahrain ratified the amendments to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. A draft law on protection from radioactive materials has now been prepared, and is currently being discussed in the Council of Representatives.

IV. Security measures

Surveillance measures are taken through the relevant agencies and departments of the Ministry. Various measures have been implemented by the agencies to tighten control along borders and at crossing points through sea and land patrols and checkpoints. They consist of the following:

1. The entry of chemical or explosive materials is monitored. The Department of Civil Defence and the Coast Guard and the Department of Border Points are taking a number of measures aimed at preventing the entry to the Kingdom of any chemical, radioactive or explosive materials, as well as any other prohibited items. This is also done by monitoring freight vehicles and freight companies.

2. Possession or acquisition of explosives and related substances is monitored. The Explosives Inspection and Monitoring Branch of the General Department of Criminal Investigations and Evidence monitors the handling of any materials considered to be explosives or related substances under the law. It interdicts any unlicensed handling of such activities, as well as any other violations, in accordance with the guidelines provided for in the law, with a view to their ultimate confiscation when a final judgment ordering such is issued.

3. The import of hazardous materials is restricted and there are rules for their disposal. These include the following:

(a) The import or handling of any radioactive or chemical substances is permitted only with authorization in accordance with the laws regulating the handling of such substances in the light of legal guidelines to ensure the safe management of by-products and hazardous waste;

(b) All available modern technology is in use in all relevant areas to control borders and crossing points to prevent attempts to smuggle weapons or other prohibited items.

V. Ports from which goods are exported to Iran on commercial vessels

1. Port of Salman: used for the export of aluminium bars manufactured by the company Aluminium Bahrain. They are loaded into containers in commercial vessels and shipped to Iran.

2. Port of Al-Muharraq: most of the goods destined for Iranian ports are shipped from Al-Muharraq. These goods include cars, soft drinks, processed herb products and drinks similar to Coca-Cola, which are exported to Iran on locally built wooden vessels.

3. Gulf Industrial Investment Company Quays: used for the export of iron pellets made from iron ore, which are shipped to Iran on large bulk vessels.

4. Bahrain Petroleum Company (Babco) Quays: used for the export of certain petroleum derivatives such as regular and premium petrol, which are shipped on tankers and coasters.

VI. Customs Authority

The Customs Authority in Bahrain works to implement all United Nations resolutions, in view of the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment, as an effective member of the international community, to preserving international peace and security. The Customs Authority has been prompt in implementing Security Council resolution 1803 (2008), which calls upon Member States to monitor the import, re-import and transit of goods related to nuclear technology, and to monitor imports related to persons or institutions connected with Iranian nuclear activities.

The Customs Authority therefore inspects all goods that are imported, re-imported or in transit. At all customs points, specialized officials review the cargo manifest of goods and check the source, quantity, type, import country, export country, name of sender and recipient, shipping documents and insurance. If it is suspected that the shipment might contain prohibited items, customs officials take the necessary measures to seize it and single out the goods for verification. The Customs Authority has instructed all officials involved in this work to inspect all freight vehicles being transported to Iran, to ascertain the sender and recipient of those vehicles, and to seize them if they contain components or materials related to nuclear technology. Officials have likewise been instructed to monitor all imports and exports connected with the persons and institutions listed in Security Council resolution 1803 (2008).

VII. Conclusion

The Kingdom of Bahrain is committed to implementing the said resolution, and will inform the relevant Committee of any developments in that regard.